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ISRAELI AID IN AFRICA

A recent speech by Israeli Foreign Minister Golda Meir indicates that Israel, despite the anti-Israel resolution adopted in January at the African "summit" conference in Casablanca, has decided to continue expanding its foreign aid program in Africa. Mrs. Meir discounted the Casablanca resolution, which was inspired by the UAR, as having been prompted by only a "temporary need" to support slogans harmful to Israel. She said it does not reflect "the entire political balance sheet" of Israel's relations with African states.

The resolution criticized Israel as "an instrument of imperialism and neocolonialism" in Africa as well as the Middle East. Its signatories included the heads of state of Ghana, Guinea, and Mali, each of which receives Israeli aid, as well as of the UAR and Morocco. Subsequent Israeli representations to the governments of the first three evoked reiterations of their support of the resolution, although Ghana's Nkrumah gave private assurances of continued good will toward Israel. The three, nevertheless, appear ready to accept aid from any source, and on that basis the Israelis have decided to continue assisting them.

One report indicates that Israel's aid hereafter will be more readily available to African states requesting it, in contrast to the current concentration of the bulk of it on two or three countries.

Mrs. Meir said Israel would send 400 government experts to Africa and Asia during 1961; approximately 500 nongovernmental technicians also have been sent. Israel maintains 160 missions in 35 countries in Africa and Asia.

Ghana is still the program's showcase. More than 100 Israeli experts in agriculture, marine navigation, and construction are serving there, while numerous Ghanaians are taking courses in Israel. Mali is one of the newest recipients of Israeli aid, having received small arms--subsequent to the Casablanca conference--under terms which made them virtually a gift.

About 1,000 foreign trainees are scheduled to attend courses in Israel this year. The training program includes academic studies at the Haifa Institute of Technology and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem as well as a five-year medical course and a four-year curriculum in agricultural engineering. Military courses are also conducted; about 200 Ethiopian paratroopers recently were trained by the Israelis.

Seminars in various fields are held periodically. Last August, Israel was host to 126 delegates from 41 countries at an international conference on "Science in the Advancement of New States." The African and Asian delegations were urged to look to Israel as a training ground for technicians and for ideas and research facilities.

Another venture in Tel Aviv, the Afro-Asian Institute for Labor Studies, is sponsored jointly by the Israel Federation of Labor (Histadrut) and the AFL-CIO. Sixty-four students from 31 African and Asian countries currently are attending the first of a series of six-month courses. The purpose of the school is to demonstrate Israel's rapid economic development under a democratic political system to labor leaders and members of cooperatives from underdeveloped areas.

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Nasir recognizes Israel's aid program as a challenge to his own efforts to exert influence in Africa. UAR propaganda media regularly denounce Israeli activities in Africa as "imperialist" machinations. Other Arab states have supported the UAR campaign.

It remains to be seen whether, in the face of the

Arab countercampaign, the Israeli program will reap significant political advantages for Tel Aviv. Despite the Casablanca resolution, the Israelis apparently still feel that they can count on gaining diplomatic benefits, particularly when the Arabs press their perennial grievances on Palestine in the UN. (SECRET)